Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Original) A method for handling database locks comprising:

detecting a new query from a new administrator for a set of database records that are associated with a potential new lock;

determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock;

attempting to acquire said new lock if said new administrator has a chance of being authorized; and

informing said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator.

2.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein informing said new administrator includes identifying the prior administrator.

3.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 2 wherein informing said new administrator includes providing contact information for said prior administrator.

4.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 further comprising informing said new administrator that said new administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock.

5.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 further comprising permitting access to said set of database records if said new administrator acquires said new lock, and designating said new administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock.

6.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 5 further comprising releasing said prior lock after said prior administrator has checked out from said set of database records.

7.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator has write authorization for said set of database records.

8.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator has a maximum database access authorization.

9.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said set of database records personally pertain to said new administrator.

10.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator is organizationally authorized.

11.   (Original) A method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator is currently authorized.

12.   (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks comprising:

a code segment detecting a new query from a new administrator for a set of database records that is associated with a potential new lock;

a code segment determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock;

a code segment attempting to acquire said new lock if said new administrator has a chance of being authorized; and

a code segment informing said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator.

13.   (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein informing said new administrator includes identifying the prior administrator.

14. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 13 wherein informing said new administrator includes providing contact information for said prior administrator.

15. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 further comprising a code segment informing said new administrator that said new administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock.

16. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 further comprising a code segment permitting access to said set of database records if said new administrator acquires said new lock, and designating said new administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock.

17. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 16 further comprising a code segment releasing said prior lock after said prior administrator has checked out from said set of database records.

18. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator has write authorization for said set of database records.

19. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator has a maximum database access authorization.

20. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said set of database records personally pertain to said new administrator.

21. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator is organizationally authorized.

22. (Original) A computer readable media including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock includes whether said new administrator is currently authorized.

Please cancel claims 23-24 without prejudice.

23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) A database system including locks comprising:

means for detecting a new query from a new administrator for a set of database records capable that is associated with a new lock;

means for determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock;

means for attempting to acquire said new lock if said new administrator has a chance of being authorized; and

means for informing said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator.

26. (Original) A database system including locks as recited in claim 25 wherein informing said new administrator includes means for identifying the prior administrator.

27. (Original) A database system including locks as recited in claim 25 wherein informing said new administrator includes means for providing contact information for said prior administrator.

28. (Original) A database system including locks as recited in claim 25 further comprising means for informing said new administrator that said new administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock.

29.   (Original) A database system including locks as recited in claim 25 further comprising means for permitting access to said set of database records if said new administrator acquires said new lock, and means for designating said new administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock.

Please cancel claims 30-34 without prejudice.

30-34. (Cancelled)